BOOK NOTICES

BREEDEN, JAMES O. (ed. & intro.) 1994. **A Long Ride in Texas: The Explorations of John Leonard Riddell.** (ISBN 0-89096-582-X, hbk.) Texas A & M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354, (409) 845-1436. $24.50. *frontisp.* + vviii + 144 pp., 3 figs, 1 map.

Recently discovered in the archives of Tulane University, the travel diary of J.L. Riddell's explorations of central Texas forms the core (62pp.) of Breeden's presentation of Riddell's contribution to Texas natural history. Although Riddell attempted several times to publish his journal, he failed to find an interested publisher and set it aside. Years after his death, a daughter-in-law donated it to Tulane University, where he had been a professor for 29 years. The journal is of considerable interest because it documents his observations of the geology, botany, and zoology of the Texas Hill Country in 1839. This antedates by almost 10 years the exploration of Ferdinand Roemer, who is generally thought to be the first natural historian to the region.

To round out Riddell's contribution to Texas, Breeden includes an extensive preface (8pp.), a brief but insightful biography of Riddell (34pp.), and an unaltered version (9pp.) of Riddell's major published article on Texas ("Observations on the Geology of the Trinity Country, Texas, made during an excursion there in April and May, 1839." Amer. J. Sci. Arts. 37:211–17. 1839.). In the case of the preface, biography, and diary, Breeden provides copious end notes to explain outdated plant names, geographic locations, customs, and obscure references made by Riddell. These notes add a dimension to the readability of this volume.—*Roger Sanders, Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas.*

LAWERENCE, ELEANOR. 1995. **Henderson's Dictionary of Biological Terms:** Eleventh Edition. (ISBN 0-470-23507-1, hbk.) John Wiley & Sons, New York, New York. (1-800-225-5945) $39.95. 693 pp.

The updated version of this standard reference dictionary incorporates terms related to recent advances in molecular biology and genetics. The main dictionary portion now includes about 23,000 entries. It will serve botanists primarily as an information source for disciplines with which they are least familiar; classical botanical terms are often omitted (e.g. salverform, hypocrateriform, nexine, tricolpate, fractiflex, medifixed, prolepsis, and brochidodromous lacking; cataphyll inadequately defined). Other helpful provisions and appendices include: abbreviations, units/conversions, decimal prefixes, the Greek alphabet, common Latin and Greek plural endings, structures of 80 common biochemicals, classification outlines of organisms and viruses (modern evolutionary, non-cladistic schemes), and Greek and Latin word roots. The promotional literature purports "Figures that help clarify complicated terms." In reality this amounts to 12 rather crude diagrams of such items as parts of the flower, trophic level pyramid, and meiosis.—*Roger Sanders, Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas.*
